

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 215

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Smith, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise with kind of a...a strange situation here and, as you can see, LB 215 I sponsored, primary sponsor, and I'm going to have to vote no today. And some might ask why, maybe all of you would ask why I would vote against my own bill, and that is obviously because of the attached amendment that was placed late in the day when we were on Select File and it came up suddenly and without a hearing. And one thing that I always boast of in this legislative body when I talk to the public is the fact that we have hearings open to the public, truly open to the public for feedback, for their response and their opinions on various proposals. And that is why I think it is a very important process to have the public hearing situations. And it allows us to deliberate over issues, and nonetheless we were not able, in my opinion, to deliberate on the amendment that was attached I would say with very good intentions of nondiscrimination. But I would also suggest that the language that was attached is vague and hard to enforce. And I would also like to say that we're in no hurry for this legislation. I realize you may have been contacted recently about how urgent this legislation is. And I want to tell you that it was...it did not become urgent until last week. And I think that it...it's not truly accurate when there...when you have received correspondence saying we've got to do this for consumer protection this year without the public hearing for the amendment that was attached to LB 215. So I will be voting red, I encourage as many of my colleagues to vote red so that we can keep this an open process, one that places a great deal of emphasis on a public hearing. So I would encourage you to vote red, and Mr. Clerk, I would withdraw my motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Amendment is withdrawn. The first vote is to determine whether the bill shall be considered for a vote without an at-large reading. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return the bill for specific amendment. (FA299, Legislative Journal page 2338.)